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*Crucial*

In re Appl. No. 09/033,909

auxiliary fixing means is used to fix the material to  
something other than said substrate.

REMARKS

Claims 14-17, 19-21, and 23-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oellerking in view of Christensen et al. Oellerking is said to disclose a fabric comprising a welding portion and a fixing portion, but the Examiner concedes that Oellerking does not teach incorporating auxiliary fixing means into the fixing portion of the welding fabric. Christensen et al. are said to teach that providing auxiliary fixing meas such as stitching in the portion of a welding fabric outside of the welded portion enhances the overall skill of the bond.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Christensen et al. provide auxiliary fixing means to strengthen the bond between the welding fabric and the substrate. In the claims as amended, however, the auxiliary fixing means is not to fix the material to the substrate, but to fix the material to something other than the substrate. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at page 6 and as shown in Figures 3A and 3B, wherein the fixing portion including auxiliary fixing means to facilitate fixing the unit to another unit or to a column, etc., using a rope or cord or similar device threaded through holes or straps or the like.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that

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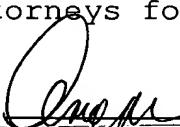
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the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.  
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By:

  
Anne M. Kornbau

Registration No. 25,884

Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197

Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528

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